

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to declare unwavering and steadfast support for the State of Israel.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad are single-handedly responsible for the escalation that has led to the bloodshed of Israelis and Palestinians.

These terrorist organizations do not care about people or peace. They seek only to destroy the Jewish state. Israel has every right to defend herself. No nation should be subject to a barrage of rocket fire, like what we see on this easel on a civilian population.

Without the Iron Dome air defense system, the loss of life would be worse than the nightmare before us today. Congress must ensure the lifesaving missile defense systems continue to get the support and funding needed to keep civilians safe.

Israel has taken serious steps to de-escalate the conflict while Hamas has only escalated its attacks. So it is especially irresponsible to demonize Israel's conduct while ignoring her right to self-defense.

America unequivocally stands by our key democratic ally, Israel. I pray for peace and security in the region, and I mourn the loss of all lives—Israeli and Palestinian. I urge the cessation of all intentional acts of violence and a return to working toward a viable two-state solution. Everyone deserves to live in peace from terrorism.

NATIONAL NURSES APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Appreciation Week and to celebrate America's hard-working and professional caregivers, our nurses.

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6 to May 12, during which time was the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Now, more than ever, nurses deserve our collective gratitude. Our country has faced unprecedented challenges in the wake of COVID-19, and nurses across the country selflessly stood ready to assist their communities and neighbors in need. They spend countless hours away from their families and loved ones while placing themselves on the front line of our national response to the pandemic.

Nursing is a science and an art, reserved for those among us who are the most giving, caring, and passionate about helping others. Nurses are there for major milestones in patient's lives, from birth of a child to the challenges of an aging patient. Patients and family members can count on their compassion, guidance, and care.

Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every nurse for the hard work they do. Their contributions have not gone unrecognized, especially during some of our most trying times.

□ 1700

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

(Mr. GOTTHEIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as millions of Israeli citizens are reeling from a barrage of more than 1,500 rockets fired throughout the country by the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza.

In case there was any confusion, Hamas is a terrorist organization designated by the United States, dedicated to the destruction of Israel, in which Congress has and must condemn for killing innocent civilians and using women and children as human shields.

No one here should make excuses for a terrorist organization.

Who is the next target of their sympathy?

ISIS? Al-Qaida? Hezbollah?

Even though we may not always agree about Israel's policies, we should be very clear that nothing, nothing justifies a terrorist organization firing rockets at our ally. And between terrorists and a democracy, we should always choose the democracy.

Our commitment to Israel's security and its right to defend itself from terrorists is ironclad. I am glad President Biden, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense have stood with our key democratic ally, insisted that Hamas stop firing rockets, and engaged regional partners to end this crisis.

No matter our disagreements, there should be no false equivalences or excuses made by anyone on behalf of a foreign terrorist organization.

As we stand together with our historic ally, Israel, we continue to call for an end to the violence and for calm in the region for the sake of our children and families and for the sake of peace.

SOS NICARAGUA

(Ms. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention on the crisis in Nicaragua in Central America.

SOS Nicaragua is our motto. SOS Nicaragua is the rallying cry of millions of Nicaraguans yearning for freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, just like what we have.

Managua is closer to Miami than Miami is to D.C., as Ronald Reagan once said on national television. What happens in Central America has a direct impact on my community in south Florida, home of hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans.

Since April of 2018, Daniel Ortega's Sandinista regime has carried out a repressive crackdown and killed over 325 peaceful protesters, while thousands of Nicaraguans have fled to neighboring Costa Rica and to the United States, escaping Ortega's reign of terror.

This November, Nicaragua is scheduled to have Presidential elections, yet Daniel Ortega and his wife, Rosario Murillo, are actively undermining the electoral process and persecuting opposition candidates to outright steal the upcoming Presidential election.

The Nicaraguan people have liberated themselves from the shackles of socialist tyranny once before, and they can do it again.

For that reason, the United States must stand with the people of Nicaragua in their struggle for freedom by demanding a free and fair election this November. For that reason, Congressman ALBIO SIREs and myself have introduced my bipartisan RENACER Act, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and stand with the people of Nicaragua.

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

(Mrs. LURIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, throughout history, the Jew has never been safe. People have demonized, ostracized, and murdered Jews for millennia. From the ashes of the Holocaust, the massacre of 6 million of our brethren, Jews return to their ancestral home to build an oasis in the desert and a democracy of their own.

Jews persisted, even in the face of ultimate evil. And, today, in their rightful homeland, they are attacked from within. Some call them villains for defending their home and their families; for not turning a cheek and a blind eye to terror, bombings, and missiles raining down.

Who would turn a cheek when their mere right to exist is questioned? Or turn a blind eye when history has been so unkind?

Not you and not the Israelis.

And we as Americans, and me as an American and a Jew, must stand for what is right. We must declare that Israel has a right to exist; that Israel has the inherent right to defend itself; that we have a duty, as Americans, to stand by the side of Israel in the face of attacks from terrorists and suicide bombers and malign regimes, who, again, have the same goal in mind, to kill Jews.

Now is the time to stand with Israel.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. CARL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank my colleague from Florida, Mrs. CAMMACK, aka Cat, for organizing tonight's Special Order hour to recognize our National Police Week.

This morning, I had the privilege of joining Leader MCCARTHY and several of our colleagues at the National Law Enforcement Memorial to show our respect for the fallen and our support for the men and women in uniform.

Last year was one of the deadliest years on record for law enforcement officers. So now, more than ever, we need to back the blue and show our continuous support for law enforcement.

When I was a child, I can remember my grandfather telling me: If you ever get in need or get scared, go to a police officer.

Law enforcement has not changed. I still encourage my children and my grandchildren to do the same. I think we have changed the way we view law enforcement.

To all law enforcement officers in this country: Please know that I support you. You are making a difference in our community. You are helping the American people, and we are forever grateful.

On this National Police Week, I encourage all Americans to honor the sacrifices that are made by men and women in uniform, and thank every police officer for the job they are doing.

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, tonight, because of Hamas terror rockets, millions of people in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, including frail seniors and young children, are huddled in fear, worried about their loved ones, and uncertain about what tomorrow will bring.

Hamas and other terrorist groups are relentlessly attacking Israel, launching more than 1,500 rockets just since Monday, targeting Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, and every community in between.

Israel is rightfully responding to these attacks, protecting its citizens and defending its borders. Civilians are dying, Arabs and Jews. My heart breaks for all innocents killed and injured. It is true that more have died in Gaza, but Israel goes out of its way to minimize civilian casualties. Hamas, conversely, goes out of its way to target civilians in Israel, while launching its rockets from civilian areas in Gaza.

Israel has overwhelming resources to defend herself, yet shows restraint. Hamas has rockets intended only for death and terror. Thankfully, with Iron Dome, Israel has the technology to protect the lives of its citizens, which, in turn, protects Palestinian lives as well.

The U.S. stands with Israel, and we must do all we can to end Hamas' terror attacks and swiftly restore calm to the region.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, the men and women of law enforcement live by a creed that sets them apart from all other professions. Unfortunately, that creed, to serve and to protect, often places them in harm's way.

While Scripture does not speak directly about law enforcement, we see that Christ said, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

The peacemakers we honor today are not only law enforcement officers, but they are mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters. They are leaders who face danger on a daily basis to help transform their communities to be better places to live and to worship and to raise a family.

Their service, their love of fellow officers, their love of community, and the sacrifice of law enforcement must not be forgotten. That is why I am proud to join Congresswoman JULIA LETLOW from Louisiana to introduce the resolution expressing support for recognizing National Police Week. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that over 90 of our House colleagues have joined this effort.

The men and women of law enforcement will always be remembered as heroes.

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Hamas has fired 1,600 rockets into Israel. Each rocket is a war crime, for each was fired solely for the purpose of killing as many civilians as possible.

President Biden has declared, unwaveringly, our support for Israel's right to defend itself. We grieve every civilian death, Israeli and Palestinian. We cannot accept at face value reports of Palestinian deaths since they come from Hamas, a terrorist organization, recognized as such by both the U.S. and the EU.

Hamas has caused many Palestinian deaths since one-quarter of its rockets aimed at Israel actually explode in Gaza, and because Hamas locates its military operations in civilian neighborhoods, using human shields.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Israel for its efforts to avoid civilian casualties while striking successfully at terrorists. I want to commend this Congress for funding Iron Dome, which has successfully avoided so many Israeli civilian deaths.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Ms. LETLOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to

honor the 394 law enforcement officers whose names have been forever engraved into the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, D.C.

I am honored to join Congressman MICHAEL GUEST and 90 of my Republican colleagues in introducing a resolution to recognize these brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. The surviving families of these officers are now left to walk through the unimaginable path of pain and loss. My prayers are with them every day as they grieve for their loved ones.

My district and State, like so many of my colleagues, did not escape loss. Fifteen law enforcement officers from Louisiana were killed in the line of duty in 2020, including four from the Fifth Congressional District:

Kejuana Artez Bates with the Vidalia Police Department;

Kietrell Michael Pitts with the Tangipahoa Sheriff's Office;

Randy Michael Vallot with the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office; and

Marshal Lee Walter, Jr., with the Mangham Police Department.

These officers swore an oath to uphold the public trust. We remember them not just today or this week, but for years to come. We thank all law enforcement officers and their families for their sacrifice, and ask God to bless each and every one of you.

The people of our country are forever grateful.

□ 1715

AMERICA STANDS WITH ISRAEL

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, moral clarity—that is what this moment calls for. Terrorists launch rockets at civilians and launch rockets from schools and hospitals, putting kids at risk. They use humans as shields.

Hamas is a terrorist organization sworn to wiping out the only Jewish state on Earth, and the House of Representatives previously declared it shall be the policy of the United States to officially and publicly condemn Hamas for violating the international law of armed conflict by exploiting civilians.

Democracies, on the other hand, act to limit civilian casualties and do everything they can to defend their own citizens. Israel is a democracy. It is the only Jewish state in the world, and our friend and ally in Israel has a right to defend her citizens.

At this moment as more than 1,750 rockets rain down on Israel, we must stand with our ally and stand against Hamas terrorism.

Please don't be fooled by false choices: Israel or Hamas.

But if I am asked to choose between a terrorist organization and our democratic ally, I will stand with Israel